

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A stent for implanting in a body lumen, comprising:  
a plurality of adjacent cylindrical elements each having a circumference extending about a longitudinal stent axis and being substantially independently expandable in a radial direction, each cylindrical element being arranged in alignment along the longitudinal stent axis and formed in a generally serpentine wave pattern transverse to the longitudinal axis and containing alternating valley portions and peak portions, wherein at least two adjacent valley portions and two adjacent peak portions on each cylindrical element are capable of nesting when the stent is crimped or collapsed;  
and

a plurality of interconnecting members extending between the adjacent cylindrical elements and connecting adjacent cylindrical elements to one another.

23. (Amended) A stent for implanting in a body lumen, comprising:  
a plurality of adjacent cylindrical elements each having a circumference extending about a longitudinal stent axis and being substantially independently expandable in a radial direction, each cylindrical element being arranged in alignment

Q2 along the longitudinal stent axis and formed in a generally serpentine wave pattern transverse to the longitudinal axis and containing alternating valley portions and peak portions, wherein at least two adjacent valley portions and two adjacent peak portions on each cylindrical element is capable of nesting when the stent is crimped or collapsed; and means for connecting adjacent cylindrical elements together.

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Please amend and rewrite dependent claim 8 in independent form as follows:

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8. (Amended) A stent for implanting in a body lumen, comprising:

Q3 a plurality of adjacent cylindrical elements each having a circumference extending about a longitudinal stent axis and being substantially independently expandable in a radial direction, each cylindrical element being arranged in alignment along the longitudinal stent axis and formed in a generally serpentine wave pattern transverse to the longitudinal axis and containing alternating valley portions and peak portions, wherein at least two adjacent valley portions or two adjacent peak portions on each cylindrical element are capable of nesting when the stent is crimped or collapsed; and

a plurality of interconnecting members extending between the adjacent cylindrical elements and connecting adjacent cylindrical elements to one another, wherein at least two adjacent peak portions in each cylindrical element have differing

longitudinal lengths which permit nesting and at least two adjacent valley portions in each cylindrical element have differing longitudinal lengths which permits nesting of the valley portions.

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Please add the following new claims:

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24. (New) The stent of claim 1, wherein:

each cylindrical element includes at least one peak portion having a W-shaped portion and at least one valley portion having a W-shaped portion which are arranged adjacent to each other.

25. (New) The stent of claim 24, wherein:

each cylindrical element includes a plurality of W-shaped peak portions and a plurality of W-shaped valley portions, wherein a W-shaped peak portion is arranged adjacent to a W-shaped valley portion.

26. (New) The stent of claim 25, wherein:

each cylindrical element includes a V-shaped peak portion adjacent to the W-shaped peak portion and a V-shaped valley portion adjacent the W-shaped valley portion.

27. (New) The stent of claim 26, wherein:

the V-shaped peak portion adjacent to the W-shaped peak portion has a different longitudinal length than the W-shaped peak portion and the V-shaped valley portion adjacent the W-shaped valley portion has a different longitudinal length than the W-shaped peak portion.

28. (New) The stent of claim 26, wherein:

an interconnecting member connects a V-shaped peak portion of one cylindrical element to a W-shaped peak portion of an adjacent cylindrical element.

29. (New) The stent of claim 26, wherein:

an interconnecting member connects a V-shaped valley portion of one cylindrical element to a W-shaped valley portion of an adjacent cylindrical element.

30. (New) The stent of claim 1, wherein:

at least one cylindrical element includes a V-shaped peak portion, a V-shaped valley portion, a W-shaped peak portion and a W-shaped valley portion, the V-shaped peak portion and the W-shaped valley portion being connected by interconnecting members to an adjacent cylindrical element and the V-shaped valley